

The Baptist Record

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Israelis pay tribute to Lindsey during 2 memorial gatherings

JERUSALEM (BP) — Israelis gathered during two separate services to pay tribute to Robert Lindsey, whose 43-year career as a Southern Baptist representative in Israel bridged eras, cultures, and faiths during critical days of Middle East history.

"We lost a great friend, but the world lost a great citizen," said Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem for nearly three decades preceding his defeat in 1993 in an atmosphere of rising Jewish nationalism.

The legendary Kollek, a life-long friend of Lindsey, is credited with winning enough Jewish and Arab support to transform Jerusalem into a modern city. He masterminded unifying Jerusalem's western Jewish and eastern Jordanian districts after Israel defeated Arab countries in 1967.

Lindsey, who died May 31 in Tulsa, Okla., at age 77, was a scholar fluent in Greek and Hebrew and known throughout Israel for his large spirit and ability to find inventive solutions.

He made an impact in both the Jewish and Arab sectors of the Mideast nation over his career, which began when the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board appointed him and his wife Margaret in 1944, four years before modern Israel was formed. They retired in 1987.

One service June 3 featured an extended, spontaneous joyful worship punctuated by songs Lindsey had written for the community of Jewish believers.

Kollek spoke during a memorial service June 7 at Baptist House, where the Narkis Street Baptist Congregation and several international Christian groups

worship. Public comments during the two-hour service were in Arab, English, and Hebrew.

About a third of those in attendance spoke Hebrew only. Many were not Christians. David Flusser of Jerusalem's Hebrew University, the world-renowned scholar on Judaism who immigrated from Czechoslovakia to Israel, quoted Lindsey as saying, "You can't be a good Christian until you become a good Jew."

Flusser, a Jew, said: "There's still hope for Christians because of Lindsey."

Lindsey became known as a father to the Messianic Jewish community for his ministry to Israelis who were born as Jews but came to recognize Jesus Christ as Messiah. His ministry developed out of research he did in which he discovered the Jewishness of Jesus and his teachings.

Southern Baptist representatives Pat Hoaldrige, Ray Register, and Ray Hicks, current leaders in Baptist work in Israel, characterized Lindsey as a friend and mentor whose impact reached deeper than it appears.

Lindsey and his wife captured the hearts of many by taking in 19 children left without families during the war that preceded the formation of Israel in 1948. These children, 18 Arabs and one Jew, became known as the "Home Kids."

One of them, Rhadia Quibti, told how the Lindseys, despite raising their own six children, made sure the Home Kids also enjoyed the fruits of family life by taking them camping and on other recreational outings with them. Lindsey encouraged them as he did his own, she said. Many

of them became highly educated and successful.

Lindsey gained lasting notoriety in Israel after he lost his left leg below the knee in a land mine accident in 1961. The story goes that he had walked across the border between West and East Jerusalem camouflaged as a diplomat to retrieve one of the Home Kids.

Sneaking back into Israeli Jerusalem in the middle of the night, he stepped on the mine.

Lindsey's wooden leg prosthetic became an object for Lindsey to use in his person-to-person ministry with other people. Many people speaking at the service told "leg" stories. Lindsey would let children pull it off as a joke.

Israeli Dov Chaikin spoke as a friend of Lindsey's and made a statement that carries as much cultural and political weight as it does spiritual significance in the highly charged atmosphere of Jerusalem today.

"I hope I don't offend anybody," he said. "But I am a believer in Jesus because of him."



WORLD CITIZEN — Robert Lindsey (right) greets believers outside the tent-like structure that housed Jerusalem's Narkis Street Baptist Congregation for several years after arsonists burned its building in 1982. Lindsey, a Southern Baptist representative to Israel from 1944-87, died May 31 at age 77. His life spanned eras, cultures, and faiths as he became friends with Jews and Arabs alike during a critical period when

Israel became a state and Jerusalem became a thriving, modern city. "We lost a great friend, but the world lost a great citizen," said Teddy Kollek during one of two memorial services honoring Lindsey in Jerusalem. Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem for nearly three decades until he was defeated in a rising tide of Jewish nationalism in 1993, was a good friend of Lindsey's. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

No blessing here

A movement known as the "Toronto Blessing" and the "Laughing Revival" is neither a blessing or a laughing matter, according to specialists at Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) in Atlanta. Ron Owens, associate director of prayer and spiritual awakening at HMB, attended a service at Airport Vineyard Church in Toronto and reported, "As I entered the door, people were lying all over the floor, in various positions. Some had their feet in the air, laughing uncontrollably. Intermingled among the laughing was roaring like lions, with some people on all fours, some sitting." Owens said he also observed "masterful manipulation of human emotions by the music leaders" and a lack of "awe and deep reverence of a holy God" during the three-hour service. Phil Roberts, HMB director of interfaith witness, said such behavior is characteristic of Eastern and New Age religions like Kundalina Energy and the samadhi trances of India, and he urged Christians to test such teachings with the Bible, specifically 1 John 4.

Harvest in Turkey

The spiritual harvest is increasing as more and more people come to know Christ in the predominantly Muslim country of Turkey, said a Southern Baptist worker stationed in the heart of the former Ottoman Empire. "The Lord is doing wonderful things," reported the worker, who asked not to be identified for security reasons. Turkish Muslims strongly resist missionary work and the establishment of Christian churches, the worker said, but small congregations have been organized in all of Turkey's major cities. Individual incidents and an intensive anti-Christian media-campaign have made some new Turkish Christians fearful of persecution, but the country's Western-style government and judicial system have often upheld the rights of Christians. "We can work here, but we must be careful," the worker said. Southern Baptists can pray for strong, disciplined leaders in the local congregations, the worker pointed out. "Our No. 1 need is for leaders with a vision for starting new work. If they start a church, it will be theirs, not mine, and it will grow," he said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Maurice Flowers, director of missions for Jones Association, is elected secretary of the national association of directors of missions at the group's meeting during the annual Southern Baptist Convention gathering in Dallas.

20 years ago

Mississippi College in Clinton is recognized as the state's first designated Bicentennial College in honor of the United States' upcoming 200th birthday, which will coincide with Mississippi College's 150th anniversary.

50 years ago

Artesia Church holds a special Wednesday evening V-E Day service and commemorates the victory in Europe with a pounding for new pastor G. Lee McIntyre. A half-ton truck is needed to transport the food to the parsonage.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Biblical ethics

Ethics is a word we hear more often as the fine line between attitude and behavior becomes blurred. Ethics is defined as "a system of moral values and duties." It has to do with the totality of character, actions, and results.

Why should a person do certain things and refrain from doing other things. Who or what is to determine if attitudes and behavior should be viewed as "good" or "bad"? What is the purpose of human existence or the chief end of man?

The answers to all of these questions are in the Bible. God has a plan and a purpose for man and reveals his will for human behavior. This is what Robertson McQuilkins calls **Biblical Ethics**, in his book by the same title. He deals with the foundation and application to our system of ethics.

Sooner or later you have to decide your feelings and make up your mind on sex, marriage, fami-

ly, responsibilities in the home, not to mention abortion, euthanasia, medical ethics, and integrity. All of this will be applied in your home, work place, and the society where you live.

Some people mainly follow "situation ethics" where every decision or choice is made on the basis of how it affects their perceived best interests. What is good or bad is determined by asking if it's good for me — or bad for me. This is hardly what the Bible teaches, nor is it good for man or his society.

In his book **Introducing Christian Ethics**, Henlee H. Barnett quotes Swiss theologian Emil Brunner. Brunner defined Christian ethics as "the science of human conduct as it is determined by Divine conduct." Georgia Harkness sees it as a systematic study of "the way of life exemplified and taught by Jesus, applied to the manifold problems and decisions of human existence."

"Ethics," the man told his son,

"is vital to everyday living. For example, today an old friend paid me back a loan with a new \$100 bill. Just as he was leaving I discovered he'd given me two bills stuck together. Immediately a question of ethics arose: Should I tell your mother?"

Humorous and sad — the man completely missed the real issue of ethics. So can we, if we do not possess biblical knowledge and integrity.

Ethics are learned best in the home where the parents are the instructors and everyday life is the lab. As children mature they note the route of personal happiness is found in seeking and following God's will. They may choose not to walk the path of biblical ethics but at least they have been exposed to it. Biblical freedom is spiritual — a freedom from something very specific, freedom from sin. Slavery is never pleasant, but a person can choose freedom in Christ or live out his life as a slave to another master.

"I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO NEEDS A SHEPHERD." —



THE FRAGMENTS

Speaking the truth in love

Quoting from the Bible and Koran, Muslim speaker Louis Farrakhan can bend the words and people will say, "That makes sense." Perhaps he is not alone in word-bending, for truth mixed with error often is appealing to some people.

William Blake put it in poetic terms: "A truth that's told with bad intent, beats all the lies you can invent."

Naturally this is true in writing, for the "shelf life" of words can last for generations. Writing may come easy for some people, but I am reminded of Gene Fowler's declaration: "Writing is painfully

easy. All you do is stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead."

Then, when you finish, if Eliza Doolittle of "My Fair Lady" were around she would say, "Words, words, words — I am so sick of words."

There are word-weary editors who sympathize with their readers. Reading the paper is like being "mugged by reality," for there is a story to be told or a nagging truth crying for expression. As the word of the Lord burned in the bones of Jeremiah, so truth burns to be declared.

— GH

Guest Opinion...

Inconsistencies ruin first impression of "Contract with American Family"

By Michael Clingenpeel

Last month the Christian Coalition, a political organization of the Religious Right, presented a 10-point plan which its executive director, Ralph Reed, called a "pro-family agenda." Piggybacking on the success of the Republican "Contract With America," Reed calls the plan the "Contract With the American Family."

This new contract calls for a constitutional amendment to provide for religious expression in the public square, elimination of the Department of Education, tax relief for families with children, privatization of the arts, ending of federal funding for abortions, restrictions on child pornography, replacement of the public welfare system with private relief, monetary restitution to crime victims, protection of parental rights, and tuition tax credits for families with children in private schools.

Many observers believe the plan is the second installment on the Republican's bid to reinvent American government, a social contract to complement the economic and political one which passed the House of Representatives in 100 days. Philosophically it is an attempt to limit federal government in American life, or

at least to center its influence in localities, and to guarantee that "Washington values families."

This is a popular sentiment these days, and Reed claims his plan, developed after study of public opinion polls and focus-group interviews, is supported by "the vast majority" of Americans. Several Republican presidential hopefuls, aware of the potentially powerful conservative Christian voter bloc, have endorsed the contract.

My beef with the contract is twofold. First, I confess to a healthy dose of skepticism toward groups who imply they are bearers of the official Christian opinion on public issues. A Christian ethical stance cannot be franchised like hamburgers, sporting goods, or automobiles. People who claim to hold the official position of Jesus don't impress me much, especially when they call a press conference in our nation's capital to do it. Not every Christian, evangelical or mainline, believes there is one Christian social agenda.

Second, the contract is inconsistent. It calls for government to quit financing the arts, public broadcasting, and the poor, but it

encourages the government to finance religion and religious institutions. It baffles me why any believer, let alone Baptist, would desire greater governmental involvement in matters of faith. And it is irrational to champion the populist notion of smaller government while accepting greater governmental influence in matters of faith.

The plank about school choice is a perfect example of Christians using government to prop up their interests. Supporters of the contract want to pass legislation that would provide vouchers or tuition tax credits to parents who elect to send their sons or daughters to private schools, many of which are church-supported. They argue that public schools are dangerous, immoral or poor laboratories of learning, and that tax-paying citizens who choose private schools get no benefit from their taxes.

There are many reasons to oppose the idea. It is fiscally irresponsible, bleeding more money from an already anemic economy. It undermines our system of public education, a system created early in our nation's history to provide schooling for everyone, especially those who cannot afford to pay for

private education.

But Baptists should oppose it out of principle. Voucher programs and tuition tax credit laws mean that government funds will be used to educate children in doctrines and belief systems we cannot endorse. My taxes, and yours, will help send children to fundamentalist, Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, or Mormon schools. I am delighted for such schools to exist, but I am offended by having my tax money pay for them.

Baptists have always stressed the principle that church and state should be kept separate, precisely because religion is a voluntary matter. We contend we are free to reject or respond to God's overtures of grace. We argue that

every citizen should be free to support or not support churches or religious institutions, and at whatever level of support one chooses. And we defend the principle that churches and religious institutions should always be free of governmental support or barriers. Christianity thrives only when it is free and unencumbered by government.

When will Baptists get the idea that it is a sorry deal to bargain away our freedom by allowing the government to prop up our sectarian religious practices or belief systems? Don't get snookered by Reed's new contract.

Clingenpeel is editor and business manager, Virginia's **RELIGIOUS HERALD**.

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HMB exec. committee affirms Lewis' restructure changes

ATLANTA (BP) — An effort to change a proposed restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention received unanimous support June 19 from the Home Mission Board executive committee.

The 32-member committee

passed a motion calling for the same three changes board President Larry Lewis proposed two weeks earlier in correspondence with HMB directors and members of the SBC Executive Committee, which presented the restructure

plan to the SBC June 20.

"These changes are small but powerful," said Greg Martin, HMB director from Mississippi who brought the recommendation from the board's administrative committee.

Lewis told the committee his "simple word changes" will not impact the structural essence of the report, but "if these changes are not made, the report would change the mission philosophy of the board and could have a devastating effect on home missions."

"However, if these clarifications are made, I will support the report wholeheartedly," Lewis said.

Lewis' changes ensure the proposed North American Mission Board (NAMB) would continue to work cooperatively with state Baptist conventions, while placing more emphasis in newer work states. The NAMB also would continue to appoint short-term missionaries rather than depend solely on career missions personnel.

Mark Bond, a director from Kentucky, questioned whether supporting the changes implied agreement with the entire report.

"Although I support these amendments, I have concerns about other issues not addressed here," Bond said.

Stephen Swafford, HMB board chairman, responded. "These concerns are the hills worth dying on. If the report passes, we want these changes in it. They protect how we do home missions."

In other business, the committee elected two new staff members, Jonathan Kang as associate director, language church starting, and Larry Braley, associate director of missionary personnel.

The executive committee also approved allocation of \$400,000 from HMB reserves to produce witnessing lapel pins and tracts for the 1996 Olympics to be held in Atlanta. The revenue generated from sale of the products will reimburse the reserve account, according to Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president of finance.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, June 22, 1995

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Executive Committee adopts resolution supporting WMU

By Linda Lawson & Lonnie Wilkey

ATLANTA (BP) — After declining to amend the report of the Program and Structure Study Committee to include a statement of support for Woman's Missionary Union, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee adopted a resolution of appreciation for the contributions of the WMU.

The Executive Committee held a two-hour session on the eve of the June 20 opening of the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta's Georgia Dome. About one hour was given to the PSSC report, which was presented to SBC messengers Tuesday morning.

The proposed PSSC plan, which would reduce the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12, references WMU in a continuing role as an auxiliary to the SBC but does not include ministry assignments for the agency. PSSC members have said the committee could not consider assignments to WMU as long as it remained an auxiliary whose trustees are not elected by the SBC.

Earlier June 19, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien had called for a revision of the PSSC report. (See related article on page 5.)

"How can we support a report which so easily dismisses the contributions through the years and which refuses to acknowledge the ongoing need for the work of WMU?" O'Brien asked during her report to the annual pre-convention meeting of WMU.

The Executive Committee resolution, proposed by John O. Yarbrough of Georgia and adopted with little opposition, states: "As we gather in Atlanta in celebration of 150 years of history, be it resolved that the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention express our appreciation to the WMU for their historic support of Southern Baptist mission causes, especially their promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions."

"Be it further resolved that we

look forward to the WMU's continuing positive support of Southern Baptist mission causes in the future."

Earlier, a motion by Larry Otis of Mississippi to amend the report to include a statement acknowledging 105 years of contributions of WMU garnered about three votes. Several Executive Committee members, including chairman Fred Wolfe of Alabama, said they favored sending the PSSC report unamended to the convention for consideration.

Otis said in an interview after the meeting the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee "did not fulfill the need I suggested in the amendment. We need to affirm WMU in its relationship to the SBC."

Forrest Lowry of Texas said he opposed Otis' amendment but supported the resolution as putting the Executive Committee on record as appreciating "the contributions of WMU and that we expect them to continue."

PSSC chairman Mark Brister,

pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., told Executive Committee members his presentation to the convention will "give thanks and appreciation to WMU. We will affirm WMU tomorrow (Wednesday, June 21) for the record, for Southern Baptist history."

Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman affirmed both the resolution and not amending the PSSC report.

"The Executive Committee honored the desire of the Program Structure and Study Committee to take the report to the Southern Baptist Convention. At the same time, emphasis should be placed on the fact the Executive Committee passed a positive, affirmative resolution on the relationship between the SBC and WMU."

SBC President Jim Henry predicted action on the PSSC report June 20 would improve understanding in the denomination.

"It is my sense that deep down we're going to come out of this with some things clarified that have been misunderstood," he said.

In a related action, the Executive Committee approved a bylaw change which was to be introduced Tuesday if the PSSC report was approved. The bylaw change lists the entities of the SBC as they would exist with implementation of the report.

While the PSSC report requires approval only of messengers to the 1995 convention, all bylaw changes require approval of messengers at two consecutive conventions.

At the end of the Executive Committee session, Donley Brown of Jefferson City, Mo., chairman of trustees of the SBC Brotherhood Commission, asked whether concerns registered earlier by the agency's trustees had been considered.

Wolfe responded that the PSSC had elected not to change the report.

Lawson writes for HMB; Wilkey is associate editor, Tennessee BAPTIST & REFLECTOR.

Southern Baptist Convention meeting underway in Atlanta

"Empowered for the Unfinished Task" is the theme for the June 20-22 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, where 18,000 messengers registered. The convention is underway as this issue goes to press. Because press deadlines fall as the annual meeting begins, much of the meeting's news will not be available until the June 29 issue of *The Baptist Record*. Watch for a full post-convention report in that week's issue.

WMU executive board approves budget, sets 1998 NAC dates, site

ATLANTA, June 19 — The Woman's Missionary Union executive board approved the 1995-96 operational budget for WMU, SBC, and selected Louisville, Ky., as the site for the July 1-4, 1998, National Ateens Convention during its semiannual meeting June 17 in Atlanta.

The board met prior to the opening of the 1995 WMU annual meeting, June 18-19 at the Georgia World Congress Center Ballroom.

The board accepted the recommendation of its finance committee to set the 1995-96 budget for

WMU, SBC, at \$14,879,000. This is a zero-based budget with no losses.

In other business, the executive board:

— set the 1996 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions at \$100 million and \$50 million for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions;

— Approved the components of the 1996-97 social issue emphasis, Project HELP: Child Advocacy. The project will seek to involve Southern Baptists in understanding and meeting the needs of children.

FMB drops application for Lottie Moon gift trademark

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Foreign Mission Board administrators have dropped an effort to trademark the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

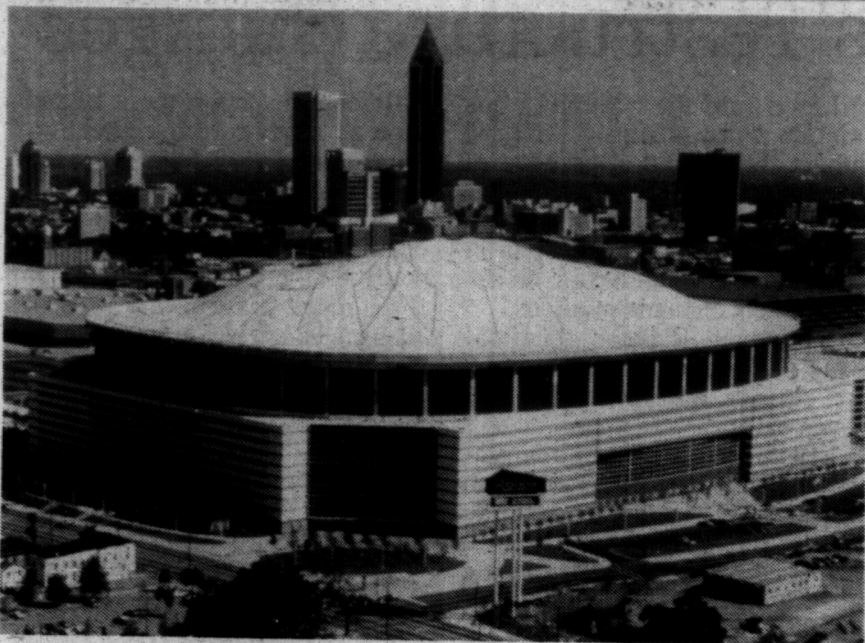
The decision was communicated to national leaders of the Woman's Missionary Union at a June 5 meeting in Birmingham by Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, and David Button, FMB vice president for public relations and development. The trademark application had drawn

opposition from WMU leaders and others.

The trademark disagreement occurred at a time some Southern Baptists feel SBC leadership is attempting to minimize WMU's role as it goes through a restructuring process.

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin has insisted, however, nothing will change in the historic partnership between the women's auxiliary and the Foreign Mission Board.





SESQUICENTENNIAL SITE — Atlanta's new Georgia Dome is the site of the 138th session of the Southern Baptist Convention. The meeting, which concludes June 22, was to celebrate the denomination's founding 150 years ago, and hold the first vote on recommendations to restructure the SBC as it enters the 21st century. (BP photo)

Crossover Atlanta yields believers

ATLANTA (BP) — More than 700 people made professions of faith in Christ as a result of Crossover Atlanta, according to preliminary reports.

The evangelism thrust preceding the Southern Baptist Convention also trained hundreds of people to share their faith, offered ministry to area residents, and resulted in prospects for local churches.

Crossover helps saturate an area with the gospel and creates a

climate to discuss spiritual issues, said Darrell Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism.

Crossover Atlanta included neighborhood surveys, block parties, street evangelism, evangelists preaching in local churches and, this year for the first time, a sports ministry in local youth detention centers.

— Neighborhood surveys: Teams of two went door-to-door in areas near 65 churches. The teams

approached 10,563 homes, conducted 3,588 surveys, and presented the gospel 1,366 times. They reported 111 professions of faith and 1,406 prospects.

— Block parties: Local churches hosted 24 block parties. The parties attracted 4,552 guests. Participants distributed 4,150 Bibles and tracts. A Christian witness was presented 2,260 times, organizers said. At least 868 volunteers worked at the parties.

— Sports ministry: A 12-member softball team from Kentucky, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, played four games and ministered to more than 150 inmates at the youth detention facilities in Fulton and Cobb counties.

— Street evangelism: Five teams sang and gave drama presentations of the gospel, resulting in at least 22 professions of faith.

Crossover is a partnership between messengers, local churches, associations, the state convention, and HMB evangelism section.

Celebration to focus on Baptist volunteers

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists from around the country will gather for a celebration of volunteer missions work this September in Arlington, Texas.

The meeting not only will recognize previous volunteer accomplishments, but also educate potential volunteers about missions needs, said event chairman Bob Mills.

"All over the world, each year more than 87,800 Southern Baptists respond to God's call to hands-on kingdom service of every kind imaginable," said Mills, director of Mission Service Corps volunteers at the Home Mission Board.

"The whole experience is to be that of celebration," he added. "We want to celebrate what volunteers have done, what volunteers are doing, and what volunteers will do to enhance the kingdom."

Under the theme "Love more than words," the celebration will be held at the Arlington Convention

Center, Sept. 15-19. The program includes Bible studies led by Calvin Miller, professor of communication and ministry studies at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Music and drama will be performed by The Company, a drama team from Southwestern.

Last year, more than 13,100 Southern Baptists volunteered for foreign missions work, jumping 27% from 1993's total of 10,269 volunteers.

In home missions, nearly 69,000 Southern Baptists volunteered for missions work in 1994. That was up almost 10% from 1993.

Currently, 39 Mission Service Corps volunteers serve in Mississippi.

Mike Riggins, associate director of the Mission Service Corps program, said while some civic agencies have experienced declines in volunteerism, Southern Baptists are seeing just the opposite.

Registration costs \$40 per person, excluding meals and lodging.

Three-day meal packages are available in advance for \$58. More information is available from state Baptist volunteer coordinators or from the Home Mission Board at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

Colson: Abortion indicates "defining moment" for U.S.

ATLANTA (ABP) — The Republican Party will split if opposition to abortion is removed from the party platform, former Nixon administration official Charles Colson predicted.

Abortion is a "non-negotiable issue" for conservative evangelical Christians, said Colson, who became a Christian after being imprisoned for his role in the Watergate scandal and now is a Southern Baptist.

Colson spoke about the abortion issue and the state of American morals in an address to the Convention Pastors' Conference June 18 and in a news conference the same day.

Colson told about a recent

meeting with Republican Party leaders in which he and Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, were the lone voices calling for the anti-abortion plank to remain in the party's platform.

Colson said he told the Republican leaders, "You leave us, and I'll tell you one thing, Southern Baptists and evangelicals will leave you."

In his earlier news conference, Colson said the Republican Party is distancing itself from the anti-abortion concerns of evangelical Christians. "If that continues, you will see a split in the Republican Party," he declared, noting parallels to other pivotal points in the party's history.

Despite increasing media attention, the influence of the Religious Right on Washington is declining rather than increasing, Colson asserted. "Most politicians think they have the Religious Right in their hip pocket and are only paying lip service."

However, Colson said the only way to solve the abortion problem is through a "human life amendment" to the U.S. Constitution.

The Supreme Court's *Roe vs. Wade* decision legalizing abortion was cemented beyond reversal in the 1992 decision *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*, he said. That decision made abortion "an explicitly protected right" under the 14th amendment, he said.

The abortion debate is one indicator that the nation faces a "defining moment" brought about by a massive moral breakdown, Colson said.

Another indicator is the rampant increase in crime, he said.

America's crime problem is primarily among juveniles, said Colson, who ministers in thousands of prisons annually. "If you took juvenile crime and inner-city

crime out of our crime rate, it would be about the same as Belgium."

He described an increasingly hardened population of young adults coming into the prison system with no understanding of right and wrong. Older prisoners often are asking for protection from the younger, more violent prisoners, he said.

While Americans are desperate to restore order out of this chaos, the quest for a political quick-fix could be even more devastating, he warned. "Crime and fear are so prevalent in American life that people are willing to make a Faustian bargain... and trade liberties for order," he said.

Such repression of liberties would be dangerous not only for the nation as a whole but particularly for evangelical Christians, who would be labeled a rebellious minority — or terrorists — on issues such as abortion, Colson said.

Colson called on Christians to respond to the current moral breakdown in two ways: by demonstrating overpowering love and by defending truth.

He called on Christians to lay aside disagreements over minor issues and demonstrate to the world the love of Christ.

Assured of that love, Christians then must defend the truth of the gospel, he said. "We may disagree... but what really matters is are we willing to stand together and defend truth."

He added, "The only way this culture will be turned around is when lay Christians and ministers equip themselves to go out and convince their friends and neighbors about the claims of Christianity."

Colson pleaded with Christians not to lose hope but to remember the sacrificial love of Christ, to "keep screaming so the world doesn't change us" and to "light the first candle in the darkness."

"...What really matters is are we willing to stand together and defend truth."

— Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship

New Orleans offers music, bi-vo courses

New Orleans Seminary will offer a new cycle of eight courses beginning Aug. 21 to train bivocational music directors and church education workers. The cycle will be scheduled over two years. Upon completion of the eight-course cycle, the student will receive a Christian Education or Church Music Leadership Certificate from the seminary.

The courses will be offered at three Mississippi locations: Broadmoor Church, Jackson; Antioch Church, Columbus; and First Church, Purvis. Each course will last eight weeks, meeting two hours each week.

Cost per course is \$75. For more information, contact Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Pkwy., Jackson, MS 39211-2412; telephone (601) 956-6285.

Samford Press publishes John W. Beeson biography

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Early educational efforts in Meridian and Lauderdale County, Miss., are the subject of Mississippi historian James T. Dawson's new book, *John Wesley Beeson and the Beeson Colleges*.

Published by Samford University Press, the book is a biographical study of Meridian educator John Wesley Beeson and his work. Beeson was the father of Samford benefactors Ralph W. and Dwight H. Beeson, and Beeson School of Divinity is named for John Beeson and his son Ralph.

Dawson is executive director of the Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History in Meridian. He is the author of numerous local and church histories and co-author of *Paths to the Past*, a history of Lauderdale County.

"The book not only presents the history of early educational efforts by Baptists and Methodists, but traces early efforts in this field by the Lauderdale County School System and the City of Meridian," noted Samford President Thomas E. Corts.

LOVE
a volunteer celebration
more than words...

O'Brien urges revision of SBC restructure proposal

ATLANTA (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union was "not born by vote of this convention, nor will we die by it," Dellanna O'Brien, executive director, told participants at the WMU national annual meeting.

In her report June 19, O'Brien said WMU's "mandate for service issues from a far higher authority — the Father himself." And she issued a call to seek a revision to the Program and Structure Study Committee plan for restructuring the Southern Baptist Convention which was presented to messengers during the opening day of the SBC annual meeting June 20.

O'Brien opened her report by listing numerous accomplishments of WMU from all levels — local churches, associations, state conventions, and nationally. "Were we given access to God's computer so that we knew the amount of time given lovingly by WMU members, and could attach a dollar cost, the value of service rendered would be staggering.

"How much has it cost the SBC? Not a dime. You have done for God what you would not have done for money," she said.

O'Brien acknowledged WMU efforts in the last year have been "generated in a time of great uncertainty for our organization"

due in part to the Program and Structure Study Committee report which was released to and approved by the SBC Executive Committee in February.

The report did not state the contributions of WMU over the

"We were not born by vote of this convention, nor will we die by it."

— Dellanna O'Brien WMU executive director

years; however, it assigned primary responsibility for the promotion of the home and foreign missions offerings to the respective SBC missions boards.

WMU traditionally has led in

the promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas and Annie Armstrong Easter offerings. Since the beginning of the offerings more than a century ago, \$2,070,191,092 has been given, O'Brien said.

O'Brien noted she has been assured by FMB President Jerry Rankin, HMB President Larry Lewis, and others that WMU will continue to be "a vital part of missions education and the promotion of our missions offerings."

"However, what is to be decided on Tuesday is not the assurances of these men and many others, but the acceptance or rejection of the formal restructuring report. Only that will endure throughout the years to come."

The WMU leader noted she has been told WMU cannot be given a ministry statement because "we are not accountable to the convention, since our trustees are elected by our membership, and not the SBC. In the governance of our denomination, I suppose this is true.

"However, what person could deny the steadfast loyalty and exemplary service of the membership of WMU? How can we support a report which so easily dismisses the contributions through the years and which refuses to acknowledge the ongoing need for the work of WMU?" asked O'Brien, who was interrupted several times by applause during her report.

She said she cannot imagine Southern Baptists supporting the PSSC report as it now stands. "I urge you to seek a revision which will include Woman's Missionary Union," she told the audience.

"If this is not possible, then we must consider Dr. (Larry) Lewis' recommendation that the report be sent back to an expanded, more representative committee for further study.

"The need of the world is too urgent, the call to share Christ with the lost of our generation and the next is too demanding to sideline the work of hundreds of thousands of committed, loyal partners in missions."

O'Brien promised, however, that if attempts to include WMU in the PSSC report were to fail, "all is not lost."

"God has given us a song, an anthem of praise to the God who desires that not one soul should perish. He has not taken that song away.

"He includes us still in his covenant for a new century. He does indeed have a place for us."

Corinth marks centennial

Corinth Church, Tillatoba (Tallahatchie County) will celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 25.

The day's program will begin at 10 a.m. and will include participation by five former pastors. Joseph Faulk of Eupora is pastor.

Thursday, June 22, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



MC sends envoys to China

Commissioning ceremonies were held June 10 in Provine Chapel on the Mississippi College (MC) campus for six MC representatives who will teach oral English on the Chinese island of Hainan this summer. MC President Howell W. Todd gave charges to (from left): Dan Jones, George Pittman, and David Parks, all of Clinton; Jackie Richardson of Union; Gail Miller of South Pittsburg, Tenn.; Virgie Hurst of Ohatchee, Ala.; Teresa Floyd of Clinton; and Dean Parks of Clinton, MC China Program coordinator. The six, comprising the MC/China Oral English Workshop Team, will teach July 6-Aug. 14. David Parks, a recent MC graduate, will remain on Hainan and continue to teach there for a year.

Ministerial education board establishes Pinson Memorial Scholarship

The Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has established a scholarship fund in memory of Ernest Ray Pinson Sr.

The scholarship recognizes Pinson's influence on ministerial education in Mississippi for more than 25 years. The scholarship will be used to provide funds to deserving ministerial students and will rotate among Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, and William Carey College.

A native of Tennessee, Pinson was a teacher and bookkeeper prior to his call to the ministry. At age 32, he surrendered to preach and set about acquiring a ministerial education. Pinson graduated from Mississippi College in 1938 and completed his doctor of theology program in 1943 at New Orleans Seminary.

Pinson served nine years as

chairman of the Bible Department at Clarke College in Newton. In 1953 he joined the Mississippi College faculty and served as M.P. Patterson Professor of Bible and chairman of the Religion Department. Pinson "retired" in 1972, but continued to pastor and teach at the New Orleans Seminary Extension in Clinton. He died on April 6 of this year at age 92.

The Board of Ministerial Education hopes to accumulate a minimum of \$5,000 in the Pinson Memorial Scholarship Fund in order to establish an endowed scholarship with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

The Board of Ministerial Education welcomes memorial contributions to the Pinson Scholarship Fund. Contributions should be mailed to the Board of Ministerial Education at P.O. Box 1843, Madison, MS 39130.

WMU sponsors adult excursion to Birmingham, Choctaw Mission Center

The Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) is sponsoring an Adult Missions Excursion to its national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala., on Sept. 18-19.

In addition to touring the WMU headquarters, participants will visit the new Global Center at Samford University in Birmingham and will also tour the Choctaw Mission Center in Philadelphia (Miss.).

Participants will depart Jackson at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 18, and return at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19. Overnight accommodations in Birmingham will be at the Wynfrey Hotel in Galleria Mall, with free time available to

shop in the mall.

Cost per person is \$85 with four people per hotel room; \$95 with three people per hotel room, and \$110 with two people per room. Cost includes bus transportation and hotel, based on 30 people going on the bus.

A \$20 per person deposit is due by July 5 to confirm enrollment, with final payment due not later than Aug. 1.

For more information or to receive a registration form, contact Ashley McCaleb at Mississippi WMU, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Shiloh Church (Lawrence) marks 150th anniversary

Shiloh Church, Lawrence County, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on June 25. Shiloh Church is one of the 3,001 Southern Baptist churches established before the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention. The church was to be recognized on June 20 in Atlanta, Ga., in a special service during this year's convention.

Wayne Spencer, pastor from

July 1983 to April 1989, will be the guest speaker during the morning worship service. Paul Bird of Meridian, a former member, will lead the music for the day. A representative of the Mississippi Historical Commission will be on program to recognize the church for its length of service to the community. Dinner on the grounds will be served. Eddie Bates is pastor.

MK injured in crash

James Foster, 15, was injured June 13 in a three-car collision in Jackson, Wyo. Foster is the son of home missionaries Randy and Anne Foster, both Mississippi College graduates. With him in the vehicle was Tom Wiley, 20-year-old Mississippi State University summer missionary and member of First Church, Jackson.

The two young men were returning home after visiting a disabled church member when Foster developed a nose bleed and veered into oncoming traffic.

Foster sustained a severe head injury and was transported via air ambulance to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho. At press time, he remained in a coma, but was steadily improving. His condition was listed as serious.

Daniel Meyer, driver of one of the other vehicles involved, sustained severe internal injuries and was evacuated to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Meyer, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, employs two of the Student Innovators who are working with the Fosters this summer in their Jackson Hole-based resort ministry.

Wiley and the driver of the third vehicle were treated for minor injuries at a local hospital and released.

The Fosters may be reached at Teton Resort Ministries, Star Route Box 347, Jackson, WY 83001.

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH



Baptist Student Union members at Hinds Community College who traveled to Alaska on a spring mission trip included (back row, from left) Keri Grayson, Amy Sneed, Susan Irby, Mark Gibson, Tracy Smiley, Tony Loper, Cherie Fisher, Brady Harrell, Holly Shows, Stephanie Marsh, Jeff Sneed, (front row, from left) Bryan Horn, Martin Bell (associate director), Amanda Lewis, Nathaniel Emerson, and Steve Flanagan. The students are posed outside University Church, Fairbanks.

Hinds BSU takes mission trip to the land of northern lights

A group of 15 students from the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Hinds Community College in Raymond finished the spring semester by getting some "hands-on" experience in pioneer missions — Alaska-style.

The group spent a week in Alaska, dividing time between projects in Fairbanks and Delta Junction. After arriving in Fairbanks at midnight (the sun was still shining) and sleeping on the floor of a local church, BSUs were up early the next morning to begin work.

Projects at University Church in Fairbanks included painting, cleaning, moving lumber, scrubbing floors, and addressing envelopes. Later that evening, students led an association youth rally at Crossroads Church, North Pole.

Sunday found the students singing, sharing testimonies, and performing dramas in six different churches ranging from the very traditional downtown church to the very untraditional mission church in the hills.

The second half of the week was spent in Delta Junction, located about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks and the site of one of the Baptist camps in the state.

Since the camp had been under several feet of snow for most of the winter, it needed to be cleaned up and gotten ready for summer

campers. BSUs stacked lumber, cut grass, painted rooms, cleaned cabins and bathhouses, cleared debris on the nature trail, and completed several other tasks.

The missions experience impacted students in several ways. Holly Shows of Florence said, "I have so much respect for the missionaries we met. They willingly poured out their hearts on a daily basis. Because of my contact with them, my own heart softened toward missions."

Tracy Smiley of New Albany commented, "It was obvious that God had gone before us and prepared the way for us."

Jeff Powell, Hinds BSU director, said, "Folks often ask me why we take students all over the world to do missions. We do that because we want them to experience pioneer missions firsthand. We want them to understand that God is busy all over our world, not just in Raymond, Miss. We want our students to see what it's like to live and serve Christ outside the 'Bible Belt,' and we believe we are planting seeds in the hearts of students who will become our next missionaries."

They were even able to purchase materials and build a ropes/adventure course for the camp.

During free time, students led prayer meeting at First Church, Delta Junction, and led a drama workshop at First Church, North Pole.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I recently accepted salvation but I'm not comfortable in church because all the people are richer and nicer-looking than me. Sometimes I feel snubbed.

As a Christian, your eternity is now sealed and you have an inheritance that cannot be shaken. You are truly blessed and have worth that far exceeds anything a person can say or do to you. You are valued because you are a child of the king of kings; keep your eyes fixed on that fact. Once we become Christians, we search for a fellowship of believers where we can find acceptance and accountability. Each church is unique; it is necessary to pray for a fellowship of believers where you can find "God with skin on." Start where you are and look for people with similar interests, values, and commitments. Pray for a good friend who can share your needs and concerns. Look for opportunities to serve others in need of a friend. If you don't find this environment where you are, you can begin looking for another church, but never leave the body of Christ. You need the body of Christ to nurture you into spiritual maturity.

My long-estranged son recently called to tell me that he has remarried, that I am the cause of his life failures, and that he never wants to see me again — another blow to my already-broken heart. How do I handle this?

There has been conflict between you and your son for some time. I would not take seriously his accusations until you can sit down with him and discuss these difficulties. People throw out threats and barbs when they are hurt and confused. Offer to meet with him and a third party — pastor, friend, or counselor. Offer to make peace and reconciliation. If he refuses, the way to help your broken heart is to continue to intercede in prayer for him and his new marriage. Remember birthdays and special occasions with a card or brief note to him, but don't preach. Keep yourself busy ministering to others and give of yourself. Maintain an exercise program, as well as spiritual meditation and Bible study. Keep offering to right past wrongs, but don't grovel or beg. Your son may like the power of his anger right now, but that power may lose strength over time.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

An urgent part of ministering... First, Winona, boosts weekly nursing home ministry with three-day revival

By Penny Sanford

"We've had church!" said one resident of the Winona Manor Nursing Home. She was overheard talking about the recent three-day revival held at the nursing home in Montgomery County.

"It was marvelous to see these valuable people of our community just bloom from the attention of the pastors of the various area churches and the volunteer singers and accompanists," said Johnny Walker of the revival. He is pastor of First Church, Winona.

Over half the population of the 125-bed nursing home attended each of the revival services organized by First Church, Winona.

"It was one of the most beneficial spiritual meetings the nursing home has ever had," said Marvell Morgan, administrator at Winona Manor. "The residents want another one soon!"

In a community with a long-standing record of various church involvement with the residents of Montgomery County's only nursing home, the excitement of a special revival just for the nursing home spread quickly through the halls.

"Folks we normally can't drag from their rooms were dressed and waiting to be rolled (in a wheelchair) to the chapel," said volunteer accompanist Sara Baskin. "Each day the residents were more excited to see familiar and new faces. This was a revival just for them."

The First Church choir and several talented accompanists brought a powerful, full sound to the services.

"We take for granted the things we experience in our churches, such as music and fellowship," said Tommy Gillon, minister of music at First Church. "There is such a soothing aspect of music that is balm for our spirits. Music helps us to reflect on Christ."

As resident Cora Mae Harper of Kilmichael put it, the music was like medicine. Harper is a former accompanist at Kilmichael Church.

"People can feel the music, even when they don't appear to be responding to much else," she said. "Of course, it was wonderful to visit with my own pastor."

Gary White, pastor of

Kilmichael Church, helped preach the revival. Ron Ballard, director of missions for Carroll and Montgomery counties, also helped preach.

Over the years, a number of professions of faith have been made by residents at the nursing home.

"We can't assume that just because a person has experienced many years of life that they have experienced God or received the gift of salvation," Walker said. "The nursing home is an urgent part of our ministry."

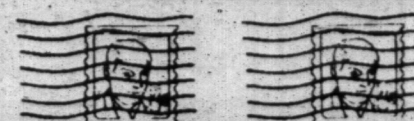
First Church provides literature and a Sunday School teacher on Sunday mornings and an accompanist for the Wednesday afternoon services. First Church and other area churches provide singing groups and sermons for the Sunday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon services at Winona Manor.

For information about how to get involved in the Winona Manor ministry, call First Church at (601) 283-4682.

Sanford is a member of First, Winona.



Letters to the editor



Our rights at stake

Editor:

It appeared that Levon Moore's guest column in the June 1 issue of **The Baptist Record** was written in response to the ongoing court battle regarding school prayer in Pontotoc County, where Moore previously pastored.

The column, however, fails to show a clear understanding of this particular issue and, more importantly, what is at stake if Christians are stripped of their right to free and voluntary prayer in schools and other public places.

Moore is correct in stating that prayer is personal. However, we must remember the power that can be found when we as Christians come together to outwardly and unashamedly acknowledge our dependence on God and our need for his guidance over our nation and our individual lives.

To deprive students of this privilege, especially when the vast majority of students and their parents in a given system wholeheartedly support public prayer and Bible classes, is not only a hindrance to the spreading of the gospel but is also a violation of the Constitution, which clearly prohibits the government from restricting the free exercise of religion.

To concede the issue of school prayer would be a great disservice to our Lord and would limit what he seeks to do through Christian students who need to feel the presence of the Lord as they face many more challenges and temptations than our generation faced as youngsters. Moore suggested that

public prayer is good in certain circumstances, but added, "...Because of the broad diversity of religious convictions in our nation, it becomes increasingly difficult for any one religion to be given special preference. In this climate, conflicts can be avoided only when prayer is privately experienced, and publicly expressed in homes, and in areas provided by such organizations as churches, ... or synagogues."

If it is true that one religion should not be given preference over another religion, why do we send missionaries to countries that already have a religion?

In short, there comes a time when Christians must take a stand, and the mounting battle over school prayer is one of those times.

George Smith, pastor
Ecru Church, Ecru

Not deprivation issue

Editor:

Thank you for presenting on June 1, in the Guest Opinion column, the comments of W. Levon Moore on "School Prayer." Moore was my pastor at First Church, Pontotoc, for 14 years. In the 40 years that I have been a member of First Church, Pontotoc, Moore is still among my favorite pastors. His manner and presence in the pulpit, his knowledge of all Scripture, his warmth as a pastor are traits that many should seek to emulate.

The wisdom he shares concerning the issue of school prayer is expressed in a clear and precise manner. He cuts to the heart of the issue by placing the responsibility of the spiritual training of children exactly where it belongs, with the home and the church.

It is unfortunate that many see the issue as a deprivation of one's religious liberties. From local church leaders in Pontotoc to representatives of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, from politicians at local and state levels to the national level, all

have been heard to promote a restoration of prayer in the schools. Too many Baptists are ignorant of our strong heritage in support of the separation of church and state. Herschell Hobbs has written: "The state is not to tell the church how to do its work, and neither is the church to tell the state how to do its work." If we heed the words of Hobbs and Moore, then godly parents will recognize the prayer issue has a place in our lives but it is neither a legal nor political matter.

Wayne Carter
Pontotoc

Admission of failure

Editor:

As a former Mississippi pastor, allow me to commend and agree with the excellent Guest Opinion editorial by Levon Moore in your June 1 issue.

When will we recognize what genuine prayer is all about and admit our general failure to communicate and practice its biblical purpose in Christian living? If it is merely a perfunctory form, God forgive our misuse! Maybe, behind the politicizing of the state-sponsored prayer issue is a subtle admission of our failures and misunderstandings. We need to read again and take seriously Jesus' words in Matthew 6:5-6.

I appreciate the **Record** and your role as editor. May God continue to bless you and Mississippi Baptists.

A.O. Collins
Houston, Texas

Forced to re-think

Editor:

When the Executive Committee interfered with the Annuity Board, we made arrangements to move my wife's investment to a mutual fund. (This proved to be a good financial decision.)

We have established memorial trusts through the Baptist Foundations in two states and have included the Mississippi Baptist Foundation in our estate planning. The action of the Executive Committee is causing us to have to change our plans. In my opinion, the financial expertise of all those preachers on the Executive Committee is not any better than their ability to accurately interpret the book of Revelation.

Ray A. Thompson
Jackson

Tinsel Town's debt

Editor:

Some of Hollywood's so-called "entertainment" producers have used television, movies, and song lyrics to warp the minds of at-risk kids who do not have parents available or willing to shield them from this trash. These young people have not been exposed to family-taught values which would give them some chance of knowing the examples of violence, murder, torture, and cruel treatment of women are not humanly

appropriate behavior.

No wonder that we regularly read about a 13-year-old child killing someone just to see what it feels like! And for this the industry will not accept one ounce of blame! The results of Hollywood's mind-poisoning bombardment can be found in any prison, hospital, morgue, or cemetery.

During the 1950s, children had easy access to guns, but then we rarely read of a senseless killing. It is no mere coincidence that children started killing other children for the fun of it shortly after Hollywood decided it was "entertaining" to feature killing with graphic and vicious depictions. Movies, song lyrics, and television have taught some children that killing someone is normal and socially acceptable.

Hollywood has already devastated the minds of at least one generation of at-risk children. We all know Hollywood has the talent and ingenuity to turn about-face and move positively in the other direction. Come on, Hollywood, show us your good side... you have the making of a better and finer world in your hands.

Dick Upah
Omaha, Neb.

Compelled to inform

Editor:

In order for parents and citizens to exercise their roles and responsibilities in our society, they need to have information. It is impossible to make informed decisions without it.

Since a new curriculum will be incorporated into the school system within the next two years, I felt as a minister that I should look into what would be taught to the children of my congregation and community. As I realized the scope of the program, I felt that this information must be shared in order for parents to fulfill their role as set forth in Scripture: "Train up a child in the way he should go." While I am not here to

comment on the content of the curriculum, I would like to challenge each of us to consider this question: Is the public school system the place and the instrument by which a child should receive his concept of himself, of the meaning and purpose of life, of dating, and the appropriate behaviors of family, marriage, and sexual relations?

According to the 1994 Accreditation Requirement of the State Board of Education Bulletin 171, as of the 1994-95 school year, comprehensive health is a required course in the curriculum of each secondary school and will be required for graduation by all seniors in the 1997-98 school year.

The parents of Mississippi should be aware of what the curriculum guidelines are. Below are some quotes:

— For grade seven: "Evaluate the purpose and meaning of life by reaction to the following questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?"

— For grade six: "Identify prevalent sexually transmitted diseases, their effects, and prevention."

— For grades 9-12: "Explain that a person who continues to engage in sexual activity with persons who are at risk or whose infection status is unknown should use a latex condom to reduce the likelihood of infection."

As a minister of God, I cannot feel that my job is done when I leave my pulpit on Sunday morning. To shepherd my flock, I must take diligent care of them and stay abreast of what is affecting their lives. If you feel compelled as I do to protect your flock, feel free to contact me for further information regarding legislation, education reform, and documents which show a deceptive, subtle attack on the families of every community. My address is Route 3, Box 149, Eupora, MS 39744.

Tony Faulk, pastor
Mount Vernon Church
Eupora


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North, to Alaska

Wynndale Church, Terry, sent a mission team to Anchorage, Alaska, for a week during the month of June to work at Rabbit Creek Community Church. Departing for Alaska from the Jackson airport were (standing, from left) John Stigall, Mike Hartzog, Patsy Stigall, Larry Bounds Sr., Bill Hardy (team leader), Ken Acton, Carol Jordan, Richard White, Robert Jordan, Michael Brewer, Joe Warrington, (kneeling/sitting, from left) Mark Rowe, Larry Bounds Jr., Stewart White, Perry Stigall, Becky Boleware, and Tom Boleware.

Just for the Record



Acteens from First Church, Clinton, celebrated their accomplishments on May 14, when the church recognized the various StudiAct levels achieved during the year. Bill Baker is pastor.



Recognition for GAs of First Church, Pontotoc, was held May 21. Receiving badges for completion of Mission Adventures requirements (left to right) are: first row, McKenzie Butler, Morgan Ryan, Anna Butler, K'Ann Dorris, Lydia Stegall, Bonnie Hendricks, Haley Gray, Paige Dorman, and Mallori Wardlaw; second row, Elizabeth Todd, Carley Anderson, Holly Rutledge, Tori Hendricks, Elise Bell, Lacey Holland, and Georgia Stegall; back row, Katie Dorris, Michelle Williams, Jennie Savely, Chelsea Hendricks, Lesley Hand, Heather Young, Kelli Cox, Ashley Gillen, Jessica Stokes, Emily Taylor, Anna Claire Wood, and Kitty Hand, who also was recognized for completion of all six levels of Mission Adventures work. Not pictured are April and Amy Reeder and Susie Stutsy.



Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, held note burning services on April 30 for a pastorum. Taking part in the ceremony were Harry Wright, John Ledbetter, Virginia Kirk, Joe Turner, Bill Boleware, and Tom Miller, pastor.

Monroe Association recently had a Bible Drill Appreciation Banquet at First Church, Amory. Rusty Miller, minister of music and youth at Ecru Church was the speaker. Over 80 children and youths from Monroe Association participated in Bible Drills this year. Kenneth E. Walters, pastor of Southside Church, Aberdeen, is associational director for Discipleship Training and Jim Harrington is director of missions.

The Rankin County Department of Human Services/Office of Social Services has announced it has an urgent need for foster homes and foster parents. To obtain more information or to volunteer to become a foster parent,

call Robin Wilson, Charles Pickering, or Anthony Johnson at Rankin County Family and Children Services, (601) 825-1040.

New Prospect Church, Carthage, will host the Teletials of Nashville in a concert on June 24 at 7 p.m. On June 25, the group will lead the 11 a.m. worship at

Mt. Zion Church, Walnut Grove; and will present another concert at Ludlow Church at 6:30 that evening. A love offering will be taken at each church.

First Church, Byram, will conduct a "Celebrate America" day on July 2. Senator Thad Cochran will be guest speaker for the church's 10:30 a.m. service, to be held in the gymnasium. All former veterans will be recognized. For more information, call the church at (601) 372-3156.

The Continentals will present "CELEBRATE! Before the Lord," June 28, 6:30 p.m. at Cleary Church, Florence. Featuring over 30 cast members, including vocalists, instrumentalists, dramatists, and technicians, The Continentals is a contemporary musical production that includes something for everyone. Gene Gillis is pastor of Cleary Church. For more information, call (601) 845-2020.

Glade Church, Jones County, will host Renee, a Christian recording artist, June 25 at 7 p.m. She will lead a women's only seminar, "Surviving Stormy Seasons." Renee was widowed at age 32 when her husband of 10 years tragically died by his own hand.

WASHINGTON (BP) — A measure targeting obscenity sent over computer networks was passed by the U.S. Senate by an 84-16 vote June 14. The measure — described by *The New York Times* as "the most aggressive step yet by Congress to regulate cyberspace" — sets penalties of up to two years in prison and \$100,000 in fine for computer users who "knowingly make, or make available" obscene communications or who send indecent material over electronic networks accessible to people under the age of 18.



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Shady Grove Church, Lincoln County, recently held a ground breaking service for its Family Life Center. Pictured, from left, are Herman Moak, chairman of deacons; Beverly Moak; Betty Quin; Bobby Nelson, chairman of the building committee; Jim Burnett, pastor; Pinkie Rawls, and Kirk Allen.



First Church, Crystal Springs, recently held its GA and Acteen Recognition Service. The theme was "Together." GAs pictured (left to right) are: first row, Morgan Sprouse, Lacey Williams, Amelia Shull; second row, Haley Lewis, Allison Bryant, Rachel Berry; third row, Olivia Lang, Lori Walters, Dee Anna Runnels, Kelly Walters, Marcy McDonald, and Angela Bryant; fourth row, Sarah Beth Watkins, Christy Walters, Sarah Beasley, and Elaine Baxter.

Acteens are Amy Davis, queen with scepter; Kathy Sullivan, queen with scepter; Jenny Sprouse, queen regent in service; Susie Smith, queen regent and queen regent in service; Keri Sullivan, queen regent in service; Dianne Lee, queen regent and queen regent in service; Jennifer Walker, queen with scepter; and Lacey McDonald, queen with scepter.

The Belhaven L'Abri Conference will be held July 27-30 at Belhaven College in Jackson. Topics will include Sickness in an Age of Therapy and Discerning the Spirit(s) of our Age. Call Paul Waibel (601) 968-5999 for more information.

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Names in the News



Grace Applewhite retired as church clerk of New Providence Church, Copiah Association. She served for 18 years. Pictured with Applewhite is Mike Bland, new church clerk.

Larry McDonald, pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon, graduated May 10 from the Leadership Jackson program of the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce (Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties). Leadership Jackson seeks to identify and prepare the community's future leadership by networking current and emerging leaders who possess the skills and the sense of commitment to improve the community. Participants were selected on the basis of their past involvement in the community and potential as leaders in their fields.

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — **William G. Tanner** announced his retirement as executive director-treasurer of the General Convention of Oklahoma, effective June 30, 1996. That announcement was made at the May 31 meeting of the BGCO board of directors. Tanner, 65, became Oklahoma's executive director July 1, 1986, following a 10-year stint as president of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. Before that, he was president of Oklahoma Baptist University, 1971-76.

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — **Jo Scales**, a Southern Baptist missionary wounded three times when thieves fired automatic weapons at the car she was driving, is slowly improving, according to doctors at Nairobi Hospital in Kenya. However, Foreign Mission Board medical authorities are consulting with doctors at the hospital about possi-

bly evacuating her by air to the United States or South Africa if her condition deteriorates.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — **Mark Coppenger** was elected president of Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., in a special called business meeting. Coppenger, currently vice president for convention relations with the Executive Committee, will assume the office of president Aug. 1. As the seminary's third president, he succeeds Milton Ferguson, who has held the post since 1973.

Kathy Nichols Sanson has been named director of the Annual Fund and Donor Research at Mississippi College (MC). A Raleigh native, she is a graduate of MC and New Orleans Seminary. Sanson previously served as assistant to the director of development for the A.B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University in New Orleans; and on the staffs of First Church, LaPlace, La., North Greenwood Church, and New Orleans Seminary.



Sanson



Smith

Jim Smith retired as secretary and treasurer of New Providence Church, Copiah Association, after 23 years of service.

Liberty Church, Mississippi Association, will honor its pastor, **Martin Hayden**, at a graduation fellowship on June 25 at 8 p.m. in the fellowship hall. He received a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary.

Oscar L. and Helen J. Russell were honored in a commissioning service by Bay Vista Church, Biloxi. The Russells are members of Volunteers in Missions of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.

Their two-year assignment is in George, Greene, and Jackson counties. The purpose of their assignment is to present programs in churches explaining opportunities for volunteer mission work in both home and foreign missions. They will assist the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board in an awareness and recruitment program. They have completed mission assignments in Montana and are available to speak in churches.

A commissioning service was held June 4 for **Howard and Sally Stevens** serving as volunteer missionaries to resort ministry and Parchman ministry. They were commissioned by Pelahatchie Church and the Home Mission Board. Taking part in the service were Neron Smith, consultant in the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Charles Jones, chaplain at Parchman; David Langdon, Bob Rowe, and Ronice Hammons of Parchman; and Michael Glen, pastor of Pelahatchie Church.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Veteran Foreign Mission Board communicator **Mary Jane Welch** has been named managing editor of **The Commission**, the board's bimonthly magazine. Welch will work with Louis Moore, who will serve as editor of **The Commission** in his role as the board's associate vice president for communications. Leland Webb retired at the end of February after 15 years as editor of the award-winning publication. Welch, 43, will officially assume her duties Aug. 1 as **The Commission** prepares to move in November from bimonthly to monthly publication. Welch, who grew up in Aberdeen, is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is married to Timothy S. Turner.



Welch

assume her duties Aug. 1 as **The Commission** prepares to move in November from bimonthly to monthly publication. Welch, who grew up in Aberdeen, is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is married to Timothy S. Turner.

A commitment service for **Ken and Matt McLemore**, recently appointed missionaries to Moldova, will be held June 25 at 2:30 p.m. at First Church, Lake.

Russell A. Herrington of El

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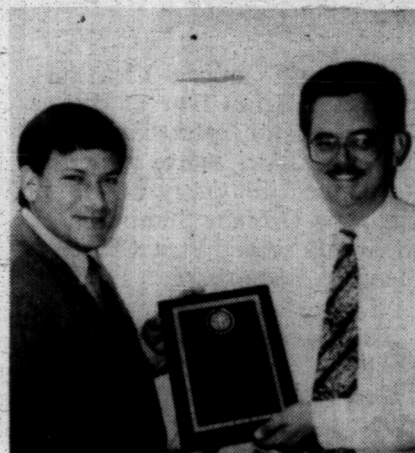
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Friendship East Church, Charleston, recently ordained David Carlisle as a new deacon. Pictured, from left, are Raymond Radcliff, deacon chairman; David Carlisle; and J.G. Thomas, pastor.



First Church, Poplarville, recently recognized **Mark Parnell**, associate pastor (left), on his 10th anniversary at the church with a plaque, book of letters and memories, and a love offering of \$1,458.35. Bob Rogers, pastor (right), presented Parnell with a plaque.

Paso, Texas, received his doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta, Ga. He is a graduate of Mississippi College. Russell serves as director of the Music and Worship Department at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso.

Jerry P. Bowman has recently returned to the Memphis area after leaving a pastorate in Missouri. He is now available for interim, supply,



Elizabeth Godfrey, member and pastoral secretary at Fairview Church, Columbus, was elected secretary-treasurer of the National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries (NASBS) at the group's recent conference in Nashville. She will serve in that office for two years, 1995-97. Godfrey is the first NASBS officer to be elected from the state of Mississippi.

and revivals. A graduate of Mississippi College, Midwestern Seminary, and International Seminary in Plymouth, Fla., Bowman is married to the former Pamela Moffitt of Southaven. He can be reached at 4857 Fairley Rd., Memphis, TN 38109; telephone (901) 789-3179.

Revival Dates

Strong River, Pinola: June 25-27; Ronnie Cottingham, Agricola, music evangelist; Joe Stovall, pastor, preaching.

Beulah, Lexington: June 28-July 2; Wed.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; James O. Lee, St. Louis, Mo., evangelist; Jim Lee Family, music; Douglas L. Lawson, pastor.

Furrs, Pontotoc: June 25-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, evangelist; Mike Morton, Pontotoc, music; Walter Simmons, pastor.

First, Coffeeville: June 25-30;

Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon and 7:30 p.m.; Mike Smithey, Marks, evangelist; Kenneth Griffith, Booneville, music; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

Castlewoods, Brandon: June 25; Bible study, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following worship service and a praise service; Eric Ertle, MaGehee, Ark., evangelist; Larry S. McDonald, pastor.

Mt. Moriah, Bogue Chitto: July 16-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; "Bud" Winstead, Lakeland, Fla., evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, music; Danny Moss, pastor.



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Staff Changes

Hebron Church, Grenada, has called **Robert A. Lotzer** of Dallas, Texas, as pastor, effective May 14. He is a graduate of Criswell College in Dallas, and Southwestern Seminary. Churches he has served in Texas include Birchman, Ft. Worth; Mission Arlington, Arlington; and Lochwood, Dallas. He was chosen to preach at senior preaching week at Criswell College, an honor given to two seniors each year based on preaching ability and grade point average.



Lotzer

Midway Church, Jackson, has called **Bubba Eaves** of Macon as interim youth pastor effective June 1. A native of Macon, he is a student at Mississippi College. He served at Parkway Church for four years.



Eaves

New Salem Church, Iuka, has called **Doug Farris** of Corinth as pastor effective May 21. He received his education at Blue Mountain College and Mid-America Baptist Seminary.

Allen Hill has recently accepted a position with **First Church, Taylorsville,** serving as minister of music and youth. He previously served 23 years in full time work in Mississippi and the last four years in bivocational ministry.

Zoltan Stefko has recently been called as minister of youth and children for the summer at **Glendale Church, Leland.** He is a senior at Blue Mountain College.



Stefko

First Church, Magnolia, has called **David E. Jeffreys** as youth and education director effective

May 30. A native of Louisiana, Jeffreys received his education at Louisiana College and is working on a degree at New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Old Zion Hill Church, Albany, La.

Edward B. Pullen Jr. has accepted the call of **Cherokee Hills Church** in Morristown, Tenn., effective April 30. Pullen is the former pastor of Thompson Church, Smithdale.

Leaf Church, Greene Association, has called **David Johnson** as pastor. Johnson has served Leaf Church as interim pastor.

Tylertown Church, Walthall Association, has called **Bradley Rushing** as summer youth worker effective June 1. He is a senior at Mississippi College.

Highland Church, Vicksburg, has called **Brian Ivey** of Hattiesburg as pastor, effective June 4. The Jasper, Ala., native is a graduate of the University of Mobile and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg.

Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, has called **Chuck Cloyd** as minister of music and youth effective May 14. A native of Midland, Texas, he received his education at the University of Southern Mississippi.



Cloyd

Roy L. McKay has been called as pastor of **Cloverdale Church,**

Montgomery, Ala. He was formerly pastor of Union Church, Roxie, and Madden Church, Madden. He and his wife Marcia were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983 and served 11 years in the Philippines and with CSI in Central Asia.

Fairview Church, Columbus, has called **Debbie Oliver** of Columbus as minister of childhood education. She is a graduate of the Mississippi University for Women and New Orleans Seminary.



Oliver

Vacation Bible Schools

Magnolia, Laurel: June 26-30; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; for children grades 1-6.

Souenlovie, Enterprise: June 26-30; 8-11 a.m.; Parker Chancellor, pastor.

Revival Results

Harrisburg, Tupelo: May 7-11; Scott Camp, Garland, Texas, evangelist; Gary Robinson, Garland, Texas, music; 21 baptisms; Forrest Sheffield, pastor.

Pelahatchie (Rankin): May 21-24; Robert Goode, Troutman, N.C., evangelist; Richard Lister, Madison, music; 7 professions of faith; Michael W. Glenn, pastor.

Homecomings

Beulah, Inverness: June 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; The Gospel Messengers, Florence, guest singers, 1 p.m.; Robert C. Ragland, pastor.

First, Terry: June 25; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish dinner in family life center, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; singing, 1:30 p.m.; A.L. Courtney, Pell City, Ala., guest speaker; Lillian Lee, former music director, worship service; Gowan Ellis, pastor.

Gatesville (Copiah-Lincoln): June 25; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; 1 p.m. singing; Millard Mackey, pastor.

Mt. Nebo (Newton): June 25, 113th year; services, 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m., memorial service and singing by Danny Purser, pastor, and Ronnie Spivey.

Palestine, Harrisville: June 25; 11 a.m. service; lunch served in fellowship hall; singing in afternoon; Carl Burns, pastor.

Homecoming '95 planned for Camp Ridgecrest alumni

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Former staffers, alumni, and friends of Camp Ridgecrest are invited to the fourth annual Homecoming Reunion July 2.

The reunion will be held at Camp Ridgecrest, summer camp for boys ages 7 to 16 located near Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest, N.C.

The cost of the reunion is \$15 per person. Reservations may be mailed to: Camp Ridgecrest Homecoming, P.O. Box 4, Ridgecrest, NC 28770. Checks should be made payable to: "C.R. Alumni & Friends."

For more information, call (910) 724-5114 or (704) 669-8051. To make accommodation reservations, call (800) 588-7222.

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The Changing of the Guard, by George Grant. The vital role Christians must play in America's unfolding political and cultural by drama. 228 pages.

The Empowered Leader, by Calvin Miller. Ten keys to servant leadership. A professional development book. 227 pages.

The New American Commentary, 1, 2 Kings, by Paul R. House. An exegetical and theological exposition of Old Testament Holy Scripture. 431 pages.

Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes, by John Kramp. How to understand spiritually lost people and give them direction to God. 187 pages.

Life at Risk, Richard D. Land and Louis A. Moore, editors. A collection of essays on current issues from national leaders on the crisis in medical ethics. 287 pages.

Why the Church Must Teach, by Lucien E. Coleman Jr. Written by the professor of adult education at Southwestern Seminary. 168 pages.

Drawing Closer, by Glen Martin and Dian Ginter. A step-by-step guide to intimacy with God. 241 pages.

Heaven Can't Wait, by Robert Jeffress. Living the really good life now through a renovation of affections, actions, and attitudes. 195 pages.

The Fallen, by Robert Don Hughes. A science fiction novel of non-stop action, suspense, and first-class entertainment. 366 pages.

New books from other publishers

Courage in Time of Discouragement, by George Samuel. A nuclear scientist speaks of devastating circumstances and hope. CLC, 147 pages.

Jesus and Israel: One Covenant or Two, by David E. Holwerdas. A reformed, covenantal understanding of promise and fulfillment and the relation of Israel to the church. Eerdmans, 193 pages.

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NOBTS names more grads

The following students with Mississippi ties were graduated May 19 from New Orleans Seminary, along with those named in the June 8 issue of *The Baptist Record*:

Master of Divinity

James Robert "Rob" Futral Jr., Jackson; Matthew Park Neff III, Arcola.

Master of Arts in Christian Education

David Duncan, Booneville; and Alan Teel, Mt. Pleasant.

Uniform

Sharing the good news



By Greg Potts
2 Kings 6, 7

The background of the text is the siege of Samaria. Ben-hadad, king of Aram, had laid siege to Samaria, the capital of Israel. As a result of the siege, there was a great famine in the city. The king of Israel became angry and promised to kill Elisha, the prophet of God, because he felt Elisha was responsible.

Elisha received a word from God and predicted the famine would end within 24 hours. About this time, there were four lepers at the entrance of the city. They asked one another, "Why do we sit here until we die?" They reasoned that if they took no action they would surely die but, if by chance the Assyrians spared them, they would live. As they approached the camp of the Assyrians they discovered that the Assyrians were gone. They entered one tent and began to eat and drink and celebrate. In the midst of their celebration they realized others needed to hear this good news. They said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household" (7:9).

Sharing the good news is what missions and evangelism are all about. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the existence of the Southern Baptist Convention. For 150 years, Southern Baptists have worked together to share the good news of Jesus with people all over the world and in the United States and its territories. As we look at our text, we see that sharing the good news is important.

The promise of good news (7:1-2). Elisha was criticized by the king of Israel for the serious famine that had caused much despair among the people. In the midst of this, Elisha promised better times were coming.

The recent bombing in Oklahoma City has caused much fear throughout America. Yet, in the midst of these frightening times, the Bible assures there is hope for the future. That hope resides in the person and power of Jesus. The Bible has promised "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). The Bible has also promised that Jesus will return to this earth in glory (John 14:3). Thus, there is the promise of good news.

The importance of action (7:3-4). Most, if not all, Southern Baptists agree that we are to share the good news. However, we often talk more about this than we do. Many churches are suffering from "paralysis of analysis." They know what needs to be done, what ministries to begin, what buildings to build, what staff they need to call, but they are afraid to act. Unfortunately, the longer they wait, the more opportunities pass them by.

The four lepers realized they had nothing to lose and everything to gain by taking action. The church must not be afraid to move. We must dream big and implement new ministries to reach people. Thomas Aquinas claimed, "If the primary aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever." This is true of the church. If our goal is to preserve it, we will defensively protect it. If our goal is to reach out, to go somewhere, and to do something — we will willingly risk it.

A pastor named Webb once boarded a train and seated himself in a car where he was the only occupant. The conductor came through and asked him to move into another car.

"Why?" asked Webb. "I'm already settled in and I am comfortable. Why should I move?"

The conductor responded, "Because this car is not hooked up to anything that's going anywhere." That, too, is often true of the church. In order to share the good news, we must understand the importance of taking action.

The proclamation of the good news (7:9). After the four lepers discovered the Arameans had fled, they suddenly realized the rest of the people of Samaria needed to hear the good news. So, they decided to go and tell the king's household.

Just as the four lepers needed to share the good news that the siege of Samaria was over, so the church needs to share the good news that Jesus saves. This is what missions and evangelism are all about.

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book

Crucifixion and resurrection



By Sylvia Fleming
Mark 15-16

It was 9 a.m. when the Savior was crucified. Over his head hung the inscription, "King of the Jews." How true that statement was, though his accusers were ignorant of the fact. They crucified him for blasphemy. With all the proof he had given them — his words, his miracles, the healings, casting out of demons, the raising of dead bodies, the words from the prophets of old that he fulfilled — he was still not accepted. How blind they were! They were as blind as people are today.

At 9 a.m. there is normally abundant light, as there was that day. However, at noon, darkness spread across the land and for three hours Jesus Christ bore the sins of the world. He went into the depths of the earth to pay for every rape, murder, and crime that had ever been committed and will ever be committed. He opened an account in heaven in his name whereby all debts owed by mankind could be put on the account of Jesus Christ. If accepted by man, his debt has been paid in full.

The ninth hour — 3 p.m. — was the time of the evening sacrifice; consequently, there were people present when the veil that covered the Holy of Holies was rent. It was torn from top to bottom, signifying the tear was made by the hand of God. It would have been torn from floor to ceiling had it been made by man. The people must have been in amazed shock as they watched the veil being torn away. No longer was it necessary for the high priest to enter on behalf of the Jews. The Jew and Gentile were made as one under the blood. Each had equal access to God through the rent flesh of Jesus Christ, the ultimate high priest.

The moment the veil was rent was the moment that Jesus surrendered his life. "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?" It was so exactly stated and was in fulfillment of Psalms 22. Why would God the Father forsake his only begotten Son? He forsook him because of his holiness. God is so very holy that he cannot possibly look upon sin. Therefore, when Jesus took the sin of the world upon his shoulders — every murder that Hitler ever committed, and every sin of the Oklahoma City bombers — the Father turned his back upon his Son.

It was time for a high holy day to begin, not the weekly Sabbath; thus, it was imperative that Jesus' body be buried quickly. He was buried in a borrowed tomb.

In the depths of Jesus' enemies, they believed that he truly was the Son of God because they remembered that he had said he would arise on the third day. They then asked that the stone be sealed lest the disciples steal the body and claim that Jesus had arisen (Matt. 27:63, 64).

So he did arise the third day and no stone was able to hold the God-man, nor was death able to hold him. Jesus conquered death once and for all for his believers. All death means for them is immediate presence with Jesus Christ. After he arose he made appearances and gave last minute instructions to those with whom he would leave his earthly ministry.

Then, because his work was finished, he ascended back to the Father, then sat down at his right hand to intercede for those who trust him to be Lord of their lives.

He finished it!
What love!

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends..." (John 15:13), and Jesus did.

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

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Life and Work

Bold witnessing



By Michael Johnson
Acts 28

Someone once gave me a quarter-sized disk with the words "AROUNDTOIT" printed on both sides. This novelty captures the mindset of many who often have great plans but never seem to go anywhere with them. What are you hoping to get around to? Lose a few pounds? Look for a new job? Start school? Do some home repairs? Alec Mackenzie, a noted time management expert, cites procrastination as one of top major time wasters. The reason for delaying action for many is waiting for the almost magical "right time" to begin something.

This same sense of procrastination can be found in our spiritual lives. We want to start a quiet time, be more deliberate in our service to the church, begin a Bible study, but we just don't seem to ever get around to it! Our study this week provides a model for us as we understand that the gospel can and should be shared in whatever circumstance we might find ourselves. We will learn the "right time" is all the time.

Overcoming unfavorable circumstances (vv. 16-17a). Paul, still a prisoner, had finally reached Rome. Apparently he was placed under house arrest and allowed to have guests come to him. Most scholars agree that this accommodation was done in deference to the honesty of the praetorian prefect, Afranius Burrus, and probably favorable communication from Festus. No doubt, Paul's ability to underwrite the cost of his own imprisonment also figured into the decision. Throughout his imprisonment, however, Paul was in the custody of a soldier at all times, seemingly bound with a chain.

Persevering in the face of rejection (v. 23). These less than perfect circumstances did not dissuade Paul! On the contrary, Paul sent word to the Jewish leaders to come visit him. Paul was eager to meet them and explain the situation that had brought him to Rome. Paul at no time desired to be alienated from his people. The Roman Jews viewed Christianity as a sect but were willing to listen to Paul's views.

Accepting a mixed response (v. 24). As we have seen in similar situations (such as Paul's speech at the Areopagus in Acts 17) Paul received a mixed response to the proclamation of the gospel. Some disbelieved Paul's testimony; others departed desiring to hear no more; and still others disagreed amongst themselves. Whenever we have the opportunity to share the gospel we should also expect these kinds of reactions. The key fact, however, is that whenever the gospel is proclaimed some will believe. Through Paul's willingness to share in adverse circumstances some came to know the truth of Jesus Christ. Regardless of how many might disbelieve, argue with us or leave, wouldn't it all be worth it if just one believed?

Seeking those who will listen (vv. 26-28). As we have examined the book of Acts we have come to understand the deep feelings the Jews had against the Gentiles. In these passages, Paul is quoting from the book of Isaiah to point out that it was the Jews who were closing their eyes to the message of Christ; not that God had predestined that Israel would not see.

Man has free will and coupled with this fact are the consequences which result from the exercise of that will. We will never know who will be responsive to the gospel; that is not our responsibility. Our concern is to share our Christian witness with those we encounter on a daily basis in word and deed.

Triumphing over obstacles (vv. 30-31). Frank Stagg, in his commentary on Acts, argues that Luke wrote this volume to show how the Spirit of God moved without hindrance; breaking down every conceivable barrier to the gospel including race, position, custom, religion, imprisonment, cult, prejudice, situation, government, geography, or even death! As believers we can witness boldly whatever the circumstances, confident of the gospel's victory over all hindrances.

Tradition has it that many of Paul's guards had to be assigned elsewhere because they were becoming Christians! Paul set no limits on what Christ could do. It was from this same location that Paul penned the encouraging words to the Philippians "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." And so can we.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.

capsules

KENTUCKY GROUP CONSIDERS OPTIONS FOR ANOTHER SEMINARY: ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. (ABP) — Seeds of another new seminary may have been sown this spring, as Baptists from across Kentucky met to consider alternative ways to train ministers in the state. Thirty-seven Kentucky Baptist ministers, most of them pastors, met May 30 in Elizabethtown in the wake of controversy at Southern Seminary in Louisville. The 136-year-old seminary, for generations the flagship of progressive Baptist scholarship, has come under conservative control in the past five years. And recent conflicts with new President Albert Mohler — including the forced termination of a female theology professor, the firing of the female dean of the social work school and the threat of lost accreditation — have caused numerous Kentucky Baptists to think about looking elsewhere to train the coming generations of ministers. The Elizabethtown gathering did just that, reported Dwight Moody, one of the organizers of the meeting. Participants formed the Kentucky Consultation on Baptist Theological Education and discussed a range of alternatives, said Moody, pastor of Third Church, Owensboro.

POPE CALLS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, BUT AFFIRMS PAPAL PRIMACY: VATICAN CITY (ABP) — Pope John Paul II issued an encyclical letter May 30 committing the Roman Catholic Church to ecumenism — the search for unity between Christian churches. The pope described "great joy" at renewed relationships between Catholic and non-Catholics around the world and urged all Christians to support activities undertaken to promote unity, according to *Ecumenical News International*. At the same time, the pontiff defended what he said is his leading role among Christians as the successor to Saint Peter. His position as the Bishop of Rome, he said, makes the pope "the first servant of unity" of the church. The role of the papacy has been central to controversy among Christian faiths, including the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.

CHRISTIANS IN SAUDI ARABIA MOST RESTRICTED, STUDY SAYS: STRASBOURG, France (ABP) — Saudi Arabia tops a list of nations in which Christians face the strictest repression for their faith. Christians in Iran, Sudan, the Comoros Islands, and China also face severe religious-liberty restrictions, according to the 1995 international survey by Portes Ouvertes, a religious organization based in Strasbourg, France. Using an index with a possible maximum of 100 for total religious repression, the survey estimated Saudi Arabia at 86 points. Iran at 75, Sudan at 73.5, the Comoros at 70, China at 68, North Korea and Qatar at 65, Oman at 64 and Libya at 63. Of the 30 countries at the top of the list, 24 are predominantly Muslim. Four of the 30 are communist. The index is based on 25 different criteria including the country's constitution, the attitude of the authorities to Christians, and the liberty of churches to go about their own affairs and to play a role in society at large. Discrimination and persecution of individual Christians and other factors such as local conflicts are also taken into account. "Seventy-five countries are above the figure of 10 and can thus be considered as places where Christians do not have complete liberty," Portes Ouvertes said in its survey, which was reported by *Ecumenical News International*. Portes Ouvertes, sponsored by Evangelical and Protestant churches, was established in 1955. Its principal role is to support Christians facing persecution. According to Portes Ouvertes, the list is based on information received from its offices in 20 countries around the world.

TEXAS CLC, MASTON FOUNDATION PRODUCE AIDS MINISTRY HELPS: DALLAS (BP) — The Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and the T.B. Maston Foundation have produced a videotape-based curriculum to help churches begin ministries to people with AIDS. "Echoes From the Valley: Beginning an AIDS Ministry" is an hour-long videotape divided into three 20-minute sections. It begins with an edited version of a 1993 speech by Jimmy Allen to the T.B. Maston Foundation, a nonprofit organization devoted to promoting the study and application of Christian ethics. Allen, a former Southern Baptist Convention president and denominational executive, told how AIDS touched the lives of his family. Information about order the videotape and accompanying resource booklet can be obtained from the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, 333 N. Washington, Dallas TX 75246-1798.

BAPTIST STANDARD NAMES TOBY DRUIN AS NEXT EDITOR: DALLAS (BP) — Southern Baptists' largest state newsjournal, the *Baptist Standard* of Texas, named longtime associate editor Toby Druin as editor-elect. The board of directors met June 6 in Dallas and unanimously elected Druin, 60, as successor to Presnell Wood. Wood, 63, will retire at the end of this year after 17 years at the *Standard*, the longest tenure of any editor in the paper's 107-year history. Druin will assume his new duties effective Jan. 1, 1996. He has worked as associate editor of the *Baptist Standard* since 1976. Druin is current president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the organization of state Baptist newspaper editors. The *Baptist Standard* is the largest of the 39 state papers, with a weekly circulation of about 222,000.

Pastor Lovelady, at 64, racks up 5th degree at Ole Miss law school

UNIVERSITY, Miss. — Try taking on three years of full-time law school while commuting 400 miles on weekends to pastor a church and carry on a media ministry. Better than that, wait until you've passed age 60 to tackle the challenge.

Oh, and be sure you go to Honduras on a mission trip each January.

Joe Lovelady did it all and is a living testimony that such feats can be accomplished.

At the University of Mississippi School of Law's commencement, the 6-foot-5-inch, 230-pound former college football player added a juris doctorate to his bachelor of arts, master of divinity, master of theology, and doctor of ministry degrees.

During his three years of law school, the Baptist minister made the trek from Oxford to New Orleans each weekend to pastor the small East Edgewater Church and carry on his successful television and radio ministry. He preached to an estimated 25,000 people by television and another 250,000 by radio, in addition to his church congregation. Also throughout law school, he put his law books aside on

"If I ever thought I understood the law, I was wrong. But it turned out to be a very enjoyable experience...."

— Joe Lovelady

Wednesday evenings to teach a Bible study in Oxford, and he and his wife continued to go to Honduras each January with a Christian mission group.

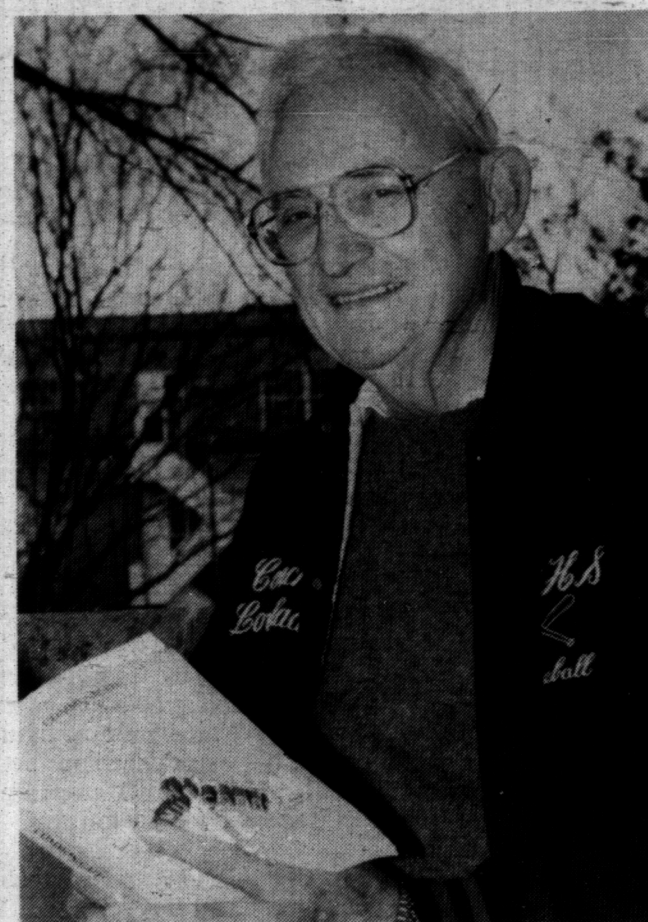
The preacher-turned-law-student received mixed reactions from his religious followers. One man wrote and asked: "Joe, how can you go from the highest profession in the world to the lowest?" A woman listener regularly sent him money to help with law school expenses.

Lovelady said spending weekends studying the law of Christianity, the Bible, then hitting a whole library of secular law books during the week was a great challenge. "At first law school was overwhelming; I would spend six to eight hours a day in the library wading through an abundance of information. If I ever thought I understood the law, I was wrong. But it turned out to be a very enjoyable experience, though quite demanding."

Regardless, he found age and experience to be advantages in law school. "I think the diversity of my background gave me a good perspective and an edge," he said.

That diversity includes almost six years as an intelligence specialist in the Air Force before he and his wife Betty returned in 1953 to his hometown of Oxford for him to enter Ole Miss as a freshman pre-pharmacy student and walk-on football player. While at the university, he felt the call to preach and transferred to Mississippi College, where he earned his bachelor's degree and played tackle on the football team.

Lovelady received a professional football inquiry from the Chicago Cardinals (now the Phoenix Cards), which he turned down in order to enter New Orleans Seminary. There he coached basketball and football, and earned the two masters' and doctoral degrees. He also racked up another 24 academic hours toward a master's in history at the University of New Orleans.



Joe Lovelady of Oxford, pastor of East Edgewater Church in New Orleans, traded in coat and tie for blue jeans and sports jackets while attending classes at the University of Mississippi School of Law. During the recent Ole Miss law school commencement exercises, he added the juris doctorate to his other four academic degrees.

During the last 17 of his 35 years in the ministry, Lovelady has served as a government liaison for the New Orleans Federation of Churches, testifying before state House and Senate committees in Baton Rouge. Through dealing with the legislature, he learned that "for good or bad, the real movers and shakers in this country are lawyers," which again whetted his insatiable desire to learn.

Like most decisions he makes — always with his wife's blessings — Lovelady never wavered in his resolve to get a law degree. Prayer had led him to two clinchers: "I decided that if I passed the Law School Admission Test after being out of school for so long, it would feel right." He passed. Second, he applied to only one law school and was accepted.

Delighted to be back home in Oxford, Lovelady plans to "hang out a shingle" and practice law. He will be available as legal advisor to his only child, a son, who promotes several Christian musical artists.

He also will continue his church ministry. "I've come to realize that you can't change the world, but you can work at it by helping people."

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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SAT HCTUGF UG FCO ORE AS FCO DPI SAT TUMCF-
OAXGROGG FA OJOTB ARO FCPF WODUOJOF.

TAKPRG FOR: SEXT

This week's clue: P equals A.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis Two: Eight.

Baptist Record

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